

Minutes

Clean Energy Task Force

Special Meeting, Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Town Hall Conference Room A, 6 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Carroll Brooke; Katie Callahan present via conference call

Cathy convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Minutes:

Minutes from the February meeting were briefly discussed. Motion to approve (Heidi); second (Carroll). Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes from the March 3 special meeting (Heidi); second (Katie). Motion approved unanimously.

Updates/Next steps on Earth Day and E-recycling:

Katie provided an update on plans for E-recycling on 4/26. The Task Force briefly discussed plans for signage in town and marketing (newspaper, school newsletters, email distribution). The recycling company will handle many of the details.

Updates on RECs/Follow-up discussion from 3/3 presentations:

Carroll discussed pursuing the SSES solar project with the idea of doing an RFQ (the same idea as the BoF presented for an energy efficiency project):

- One advantage being that we wind up with only very interested parties
- Allows more flexibility in deciding who to use
- Good for solar in part because there are not as many installers in the area who could do this type of project

Carroll looked through the RFQs from Stratford to see the process and perhaps try to use or model an RFQ on the basis of theirs, in order to avoid having to hire lawyers to do an expensive RFQ for just this proposal.

Cathy felt that since we have 2 major projects currently on the table, we might need to pick one to focus on now and put the other off until we have more time and resources.

Discussion followed about which one to do and when. Pros and cons were weighted against time to get the project going, probability of having it move forward (approved) and energy/money saved overall.

Discussion points included: noting that both the size and location of a solar array would determine how much savings in electricity will result from a solar project; there is great potential to offset a significant portion of the energy costs; further analysis is needed to work out details.

It was also noted that the solar project might not have all the pieces together on time for the RECs auction. Carroll pointed out that the Keller analysis could be a financially challenging project, with already known issues such as the windows, which cannot be replaced without a huge cost to the town.

Follow-up from BoF meeting:

Cathy updated the TF on the meeting she and Carroll attended. They presented to the BoF to request the TF have a budget for hiring an engineer to do a level 2 engineering study at Helen Keller.

The upshot is that the BoF requested that the TF follow the same route as was done with SSES (RFQ). We don't need to use Honeywell again, but must follow the same procedure. The BoF also recommended that the RFQ include all town buildings (not just HKMS).

Andy Kachele referenced the town of Stratford's model where they had used a number of firms to produce an RFQ; from those RFQs we would pick one to do a more in depth analysis of the projects. Any in depth analysis would then be paid for separately IF the project were not to go forward.

Final update on Solarize:

Cathy reported that a letter was submitted to the Courier summarizing the program results. No further update was available from Sunlight Solar on new installations after the expiration of the Solarize campaign.

Motion to adjourn (Katie); second (Carroll).

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi

Heidi Armster, Secretary
April 8, 2014

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Heidi
EASTON TOWN CLERK ASST